

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W
-----021988 281440Z /50

R 281118Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6116
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 11444

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT IR
SUBJ: SPECULATION RE ZAHEDI'S AND HOVEYDA'S FUTURE

1. IRAN'S MOST CONSPICUOUS CURRENT PERSONAL FEUD APPARENTLY ENDED EVENING DECEMBER 27 WHEN COURT MINISTER HOVEYDA AND AMBASSADOR ARDESHIR ZAHEDI LITERALLY KISSED AND MADE UP. OCCASION WAS DINNER HOSTED BY NIOC CHAIRMAN HUSHANG ANSARY TO CELEBRATE ZAHEDI'S FIRST VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY IN MORE THAN SIX YEARS. PRESENT AT THE ELATION WERE PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR AND SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND COURT OFFICIALS.

2. RUMORS ABOUND IN TEHRAN THAT ZAHEDI IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE WASHINGTON SOON AND ACCEPT SIGNIFICANT APPOINTMENT IN TEHRAN. SINCE HE HIMSELF HAS OFTEN INDICATED THAT HE IS INTERESTED ONLY IN PRIME MINISTER OR COURT MINISTER POSITIONS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS WHAT APPOINTMENT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO HIM. BOTH INCUMBENTS SEEM FAIRLY WELL ESTABLISHED IN THEIR CURRENT POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH AMOUZEGAR APPEARS ABOUT TO ESTABLISH A CLEAN SWEEP OF HOVEYDA'S MEN FROM LEADING POSITIONS IN RASTAKHIZ PARTY AND TO BE PERSONALLY RE-INSTALLED IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THAT ORGANIZATION.

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3. MOST LOGICAL SPECULATION, THEREFORE, SEEMS TO CENTER AROUND POSSIBILITY THAT ZAHEDI AND HOVEYDA WOULD SWAP POSITIONS. RUMORS SUGGEST THAT THE SHAH MAY CONSIDER HOVEYDA'S LESS FLAMBOYANT STYLE MORE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN ZAHEDI'S SWINGING IMAGE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL RECALL, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Line Count: 62
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